



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

spirers and mentors, are some of the themes treated by contributors in the form of explanatory comment, accompanying a display of more or less weighty documents. Among these, certain personal statements in the form of letters or diaries revealing the dominant *Stimmung* of one or another German circle stand out with a very instant appeal. The few pages of the *Denkwürdigkeiten* of F. J. Frommann (pp. 40-47) and the vigorous communication of the young Gervinus (p. 362 ff.) furnish materials that every historian will welcome and turn to good account, while a letter from a reactionary student (p. 242 ff.), indited with extraordinary fervor, excellently serves to bring to our attention that the conservatism of the Prussian *Junker* was not all pure greed but had a very convincing philosophic or, perhaps I should say, emotional basis.

On the whole, however, these documents with their attendant glosses may fairly be said to excel through their negative content, for they open a vision, desolating as an abyss, of the backwardness of Germany compared with her western neighbors. The country had recently acquired a promising literature and was profoundly musing upon the secrets of religion and philosophy, but politically it was about in a line with Kamchatka, and hopelessly prostrate before its two-score divinely imposed despots. By the very effort these young Burschenschafter make to arouse "the political animal" in themselves, you get a pathetic glimpse of the remoteness of dreaming Germany, newly locked by the reaction in the prison of medievalism, from the live and pressing issues of the day. But the most pathetic as also the most amusing document in this negative line is unquestionably the Reichstag decree of 1793 (p. 29). In that year the perennially somnolent Diet of the Holy Roman Empire miraculously awakened to the fact that there was a guillotine operating on the Place de la Révolution and mumbled its disapproval of the innovation (and specifically of the flying seeds of revolt sprouting in the form of German student associations) in a passionately inarticulate fulmination, one sentence of which growlingly heaves its huge bulk through five paragraphs! Perhaps it is a very personal impression but to me the bluster of the ghostly Diet about the horrible new times, couched in the famous *Kanzleystyl* which still curses German academical writers (its tell-tale finger-prints are on almost every contribution to this volume), affords an invaluable flash-light picture of all those heavy obstacles that had to be conquered before the vital Germany of our day could be born.

FERDINAND SCHEVILL.

The Life and Letters of George William Frederick, Fourth Earl of Clarendon, K.G., G.C.B. By the Right Hon. Sir HERBERT MAXWELL, Bart., F.R.S., D.C.L., LL.D. In two volumes. (London: Edward Arnold; New York: Longmans, Green, and Company. 1913. Pp. xi, 366; x, 383.)

THESE two volumes contain new and in some respects useful material for early Victorian history. They consist of selections from Lord

Clarendon's private and familiar letters, covering especially the years from 1823 to 1870. Sir Herbert Maxwell found a wealth of correspondence to choose from; and he has arranged his extracts so as to form, in effect, a life of Clarendon. Being restricted, however, almost to the very letters which he edits, Sir Herbert's biographical work is limited in value: it would seem, indeed, to be only secondary to the chief purpose of these volumes, which is to display Lord Clarendon's more intimate correspondence in its bearing upon his career. Whenever an adequate biography of Clarendon comes to be written, the contribution of Sir Herbert may be used to advantage. But the student of the early Victorian era who has recourse to this part of the Clarendon correspondence will probably find himself looking beyond its biographical import to the intrinsic interest of its contents. Not always can it be said of two volumes of letters, that they contain scarcely a dull paragraph; yet the impression left by these is entirely delightful—Sir Herbert himself showing in his editorial paragraphs a touch that blends happily with the lightness and ease of Clarendon's own style.

The length and variety of Clarendon's official career give his letters a wide range. Beginning with long descriptions of the Carlist wars in Spain, they pass to the refusal of the governor-generalship of Canada in 1837, and, in 1840, to the suspected rivalry with Palmerston in the cabinet. The critical relations with France over the Eastern Question in the forties, and the difficulties of Ireland under Peel's government, bring out communications of some interest, though more naturally attaches to those written while Lord Lieutenant of Ireland after 1847, and during the discussions of the Encumbered Estates Act. Then follow negotiations for the place of foreign secretary in Aberdeen's cabinet, which leads to the absorbing question of the Crimean War. After the Paris Conference of 1856 comes a succession of topics treated less fully, such as the Civil War in the United States, the death of the prince consort and of Palmerston, the investigation of the endowed schools commission, and the beginnings of Gladstonian liberalism. Glancing over the period from 1823 to 1870, there is almost no public issue upon which Lord Clarendon or one of his correspondents has not touched.

Such an extensive list of subjects might raise expectations of an abundance of information to be had: but in information, particularly of the kind that makes narrative or contributes to analytical discussion, this entire correspondence is lacking. At first reading, and in contrast to his official and more formal correspondence, it seems even superficial and trivial: but, on reflection, a different appreciation becomes possible.

For, judging from these letters, Clarendon, like many another Whig of the period, cultivated no distinctive views. He accepted, it might almost seem with indifference, the traditions of his party held by Holland and Lansdowne; and he fell into the routine of cabinet office, disinterestedly, for the personal satisfaction it brought. He was inclined to watch his associates more with an eye to personal than to political criticism—if indeed he ever dissociated the two—for few statesmen

could resolve politics so readily into an interplay of personalities, or overlook so dexterously in a public man the cause or movement behind him. This habit of never seeing impersonally it is that gives their peculiar value to Clarendon's letters. Numerous minor sketches here and there of personal characteristics and situations are surpassingly apt: they arrest attention and remain in the memory. But these letters as a series are chiefly informed with the figures of Palmerston and Russell. Both statesmen appear—and nothing shows more clearly the limited scope of this material—not as successful or original leaders, but as rather troublesome colleagues. Yet the total picture given of each is very true to life, and serves to correct the detached, exalted views of their special biographers.

Sir Herbert Maxwell, after reminding us that he is a Conservative of the old school, protests his non-partizan editing; and on the whole it may be granted. He is not free, however, from an occasional prejudice. One detects, for example, a certain partiality whenever relations with the United States are touched upon, as in his version of the McLeod case, which he would have difficulty in substantiating from the Foreign Office correspondence on the subject. Again, writers on this period are entitled to deplore the often harmful influence of the *Times*, but Sir Herbert exceeds all reason in attacking Sir William Howard Russell, the *Times* correspondent in the Crimean War, for the despatches revealing the distress of Lord Raglan's forces, which formed such an open indictment of the Aberdeen administration. If Sir Herbert had referred to the biography of Sir W. H. Russell, recently published, one would place more confidence in his having looked at all sides of the question. As it is, he appears to have delivered an unfair attack upon only partial knowledge. But bias of this kind is not frequent, nor does it mar the very attractive way in which Sir Herbert has carried out his task.

C. E. FRYER.

Lord Lyons: a Record of British Diplomacy. By Lord NEWTON.

In two volumes. (London: Edward Arnold; New York: Longmans, Green, and Company. 1913. Pp. x, 388; viii, 447.)

THESE volumes contain something more than the belated reminiscences of a diplomatist, which are often, as Sorel once brightly said, "negotiations for the applause of posterity rather than true records of the past". The work is based, Lord Newton assures us, on "the whole" of Lord Lyons's correspondence, "whether official, semi-official, or private"; and so far as these sources have been used the work is properly classed by the subtitle which the author has chosen, "a Record of British Diplomacy".

The interest attaching to such a record is by no means small. History, in the full and proper sense of the word, such a work of course cannot be. It is of necessity too personal, too limited in its apprehension of motives, and too narrow in its sympathies to convey the whole truth.